

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A biologically pure culture of lactic acid bacterium strain belonging to a genus *Lactobacillus* having the ability of preventing colonization of an intestine with pathogenic bacteria causing diarrhoea and of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses wherein the lactic acid bacterium strain is capable of growing in presence of up to 0.4% bile salts.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The lactic acid bacterium strain according to claim 1, which is capable of adhering to an intestinal mucosa of a host organism and ~~colonizing~~ the intestinal mucosa.

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (previously presented): The lactic acid bacterium strain according to claim 1 which is selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* and *Lactobacillus paracasei*.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The lactic acid bacterium strain according to claim 4, which is *Lactobacillus paracasei*.

Claim 6 (original): The *Lactobacillus paracasei* according to claim 5, which is *Lactobacillus paracasei* CNCM I-2116 (NCC 2461).

Claim 7 (previously presented): A method for preparing an ingestible support material comprising using a biologically pure culture of lactic acid bacterium strain belonging to a genus *Lactobacillus* having the ability of preventing colonization of an intestine with pathogenic bacteria causing diarrhoea and of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method according to claim 7, wherein the lactic acid bacterium strain is contained in an ingestible support material in an amount from about 10^5 cfu / g to about 10^{12} cfu / g support material.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A method for preparing an ingestible support material comprising using a supernatant of a biologically pure culture of a lactic acid bacterium strain belonging to a genus *Lactobacillus* having the ability of preventing colonization of an intestine with pathogenic bacteria causing diarrhoea and of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein the ingestible support material is a food composition selected from milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milks, milk based fermented products, ice-creams, fermented cereal based products, milk based powders, and infant formulae.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A method for treatment of a disorder associated with diarrhoea comprising administering to a patient having the disorder associated with diarrhoea a biologically pure culture of lactic acid bacterium strain belonging to a genus *Lactobacillus* having the ability of preventing colonization of an intestine with pathogenic bacteria causing diarrhoea and of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition containing a biologically pure culture of lactic acid bacterium strain belonging to a genus *Lactobacillus* having the ability of preventing colonization of an intestine with pathogenic bacteria causing diarrhoea and of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses or a supernatant of a culture thereof.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method according to claim 11, wherein the lactic acid bacterium strain is part of a composition which is selected from the group consisting of milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milks, milk based fermented products, ice-creams,

fermented cereal based products, milk based powders, infant formulae, tablets, liquid bacterial suspensions, dried oral supplement, liquid oral supplement, dry tube feeding, and liquid tube feeding.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 12 wherein the lactic acid bacterium strain is capable of adhering to the intestinal mucosa of a host organism and essentially colonize it.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 12 wherein the lactic acid bacterium strain grows in the presence of up to 0.4 % bile salts.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 12 wherein the lactic acid bacterium strain is selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* and *Lactobacillus paracasei*.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 16 wherein the lactic acid bacterium strain is *Lactobacillus paracasei*.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 17 wherein the lactic acid bacterium strain is *Lactobacillus paracasei* CNCM I-2116 (NCC 2461).

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method according to claim 7 wherein the ingestible support material is a food composition selected from the group consisting of milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milks, milk-based fermented products, ice-creams, fermented cereal based products, milk based product, and infant formulae.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A method for preventing a disorder associated with diarrhoea in a patient at risk of same comprising administering a biologically pure culture of lactic acid bacterium strain belonging to a genus *Lactobacillus* having the ability of preventing

colonization of the intestine with pathogenic bacteria causing diarrhoea and of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses.

Claim 21 (previously presented): A food comprising a biologically pure culture of lactic acid bacterium strain belonging to a genus *Lactobacillus* having the ability of preventing colonization of the intestine with pathogenic bacteria causing diarrhoea and of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses or a supernatant of a culture thereof.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The food according to claim 21 which is selected from the group consisting of milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milks, milk based fermented products, ice-creams, fermented cereal based products, milk based powders, infant formulae, tablets, liquid bacterial suspensions, dried oral supplement, wet oral supplement, and liquid tube feeding.